

the closure of the installation opening by the closure member.

Claim 7 (twice amended). The housing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure member has an upper lip and an edge of the installation opening in the housing has an offset on which an upper lip of the closure member is placed such that the closure member is arranged in a recessed manner on the shift mechanism.

Enter the Following New Claim:

8. The housing as claimed in claim 2, wherein the closure member includes an upper lip and a lower lip disposed at a distal end of the closure member from the extension, the upper and lower lips configured to removably engage an edge of the installation opening.

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-8 are now in the application. Claims 1-7 have been amended. Claim 8 has been added.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to positively recite the housing of the bicycle shifting mechanism.

Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102, based on DE 298 04 998 U1 (CR Elastomere) and U.S. 4,366,915 (Seidler), claim 1 as now amended overcomes these references because the housing is for a bicycle shifting mechanism and the device disclosed in CR Elastomere is a cover for a combustion engine and the device disclosed in Seidler is a cover for a storage box. Therefore, neither reference discloses a housing of a bicycle shifting mechanism having a closure member connected to the housing for covering an installation opening.

Claims 4 and 7 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as stated by the Examiner.

A new claim 8 has been added to claim the upper and lower lips in the same claim.

In summary, none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (amended). [A closure member (1) for an installation opening (4) in a housing (2), in particular in] A housing of a bicycle shift mechanism [(3) for bicycles], comprising: an installation opening; a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of [rubber-elastic] elastomeric material [, characterized in that the closure member (1) has an extension (6) that extends into the interior of the housing (2)]; and a holding member connecting the closure member to the housing [can be connected to the housing (2) by means of an assembled joint].

Claim 2 (amended). The [closure member] housing as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the closure member includes an extension attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing [(2) has a] , the holding member [(5) that positions] connecting the extension [(6) in] to the housing [(2)].

Claim 3 (twice amended). The [closure member] housing as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the

extension [(6)] has a thickened portion [(7) that holds] for holding the extension [(6)] in [its] position on the holding member [(5), even] under a tensile loading [stemming from] of the closure member [(1)].

Claim 4 (twice amended). The [closure member] housing as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the closure member [(1)] has a molded recess [(8)] that enables the closure member [(1)] to [be opened like] act as a hinge.

Claim 5 (twice amended). The [closure member] housing as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the closure member [(1)] has an upper lip [(9) that comes] coming to rest over the edge of the installation opening [(4)].

Claim 6 (twice amended). The [closure member] housing as claimed claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the closure member [(1)] has a lower lip [(10)] at least at [the] a point furthest away from the extension [(6)], said lower lip sliding under [the] an edge of the installation opening [(4)] after the closure of the installation opening [(4)] by the closure member [(1)].

Claim 7 (twice amended). The [closure member] housing as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the closure member has an upper lip and an [the] edge of the installation opening [(4)] in [a] the housing [(2a)] has an offset [(12)] on which an upper lip [(12a)] of [a] the closure member [(1a) can be] is placed [so] such that the [latter can be] closure member is arranged in a recessed manner on the shift mechanism [(3)].